

THE HOT LIST

World's Top New
134 HOTELS
Including 42 under \$250

Plus: 45 Sybaritic Spas • 30 Cool Bars



VANUATU

Ratua Private Island,

Ratua

 At \$18,300 a night, this 146-acre private island resort is an away-from-it-all hideout for someone and up to 27 of his or her friends, who already have most of it all. For a few weeks throughout the year, however, you can live much the same exclusive, all-inclusive experience for the price of a double-bedded villa. The former coconut plantation was created by a wealthy Frenchman who sees the dozen-villa complex, facing a quiet shady beach, as a way to preserve a natural treasure while supporting surrounding communities. The villas are lovely, if simply furnished, 200-year-old teakwood houses, purchased in Indonesia and then shipped to Ratua—a concept to give pause but that in reality goes well with the island's lush landscape. Similarly, while most of the food is produced on the island or purchased locally, the goal of a minimum carbon footprint has been relaxed in the matter of wine—the resort is, after all, a Gallic inspiration—with a glass of the best French or California going well after an afternoon of horseback riding, canoeing, or snorkeling. **WHICH ROOM TO BOOK:** Unless you're taking over the whole shebang, the villas in the South Point Village, just past the spa that is scheduled to open in June, have the nicest swaths of private beach (61-02-9280-2205; doubles, \$1,336–\$2,138, all-inclusive). 

Some Like It Hot

We go undercover with the 2010 edition of the list that launches a thousand room reservations

THE HOTTIES

IN WHICH WE CELEBRATE THE LITTLE DETAILS that elevate our favorite hotels from likable... to lovable



BEST OPEN-KITCHEN POLICY: The fresh-made meals whenever you want (really!) at Ratua Private Island, in Vanuatu.